

Remarks/Arguments

Remarks

Before the amendments made herein, claims 1-22 stand canceled and claims 23-38 are pending. Claims 1-22 were canceled by the Preliminary Amendment, filed September 18, 2006.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants amended the specification by replacing the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 18, to correct a typographical error. The term, “tris(carboxymethylethylene)” was replaced with “tris(carboxymethyl)ethylene”.

This amendment does not add any new matter.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 29 was amended without prejudice or disclaimer. In this claim, the term, “tris(carboxymethylethylene)” was replaced with “tris(carboxymethyl)ethylene” to correct a typographical error.

This amendment does not add any new matter.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any canceled subject matter in a later application.

Arguments

The Examiner requires Applicants “to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable...” and to “identify the claims readable on the elected species...” The election requires Applicants to elect one type of chelating agent from the below list:

- A. Three carboxyl groups (claim 27)
- B. Tetradentate (claim 28)
- C. Iminodiacetic acid (claim 29)
- D. Nitril triacetic acid (claim 29)
- E. Tris(carboxymethylethylene diamine) (claim 29)

F. Tris(carboxymethylated aspartate) (claim 29)
and elect one type of polymer particle from the list below:
Magnetic (claims 30 and 37-38)
Porous (claim 31)
(Office Action, page 2).

First, applicants elect the chelating agent with “three carboxyl groups” and the polymer particle which is “magnetic”. Claims 23-26, 27, 30, 32-36, 37-38 encompass the elected species.

Second, Applicants respectfully submit that the “Tris(carboxymethylethylene diamine)”, species E, and Tris(carboxymethylated aspartate), species F, as recited in the Office Action should be have been recited as “tris(carboxymethyl)ethylene diamine” and “carboxymethylated aspartate”, respectively, as recited in claim 29, as amended.

Conclusions

Applicants respectfully request that this paper be entered. Applicants believe that a full and complete Reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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